Message

From: Mendelsohn, Mike [Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/16/2017 11:13:24 PM
To: Borges, Shannon [Borges.Shannon@epa.gov]; Kough, John [Kough.John@epa.gov]; Wozniak, Chris [wozniak.chris@epa.gov]
CC: McNally, Robert [Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov]; Hartman, Mark [Hartman.Mark@epa.gov]; Leahy, John [Leahy.John@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Eco Assessment for Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

Shannon,

Thanks. We will be setting up a meeting next week to discuss what info/data might be required for an Oxitec GE mosquito EUP risk assessment in the context of the EA done by FDA. My understanding from John K. and Chris W. is that the EA probably describes the data we need for both a human health and non-target EUP risk assessment. However, as Mark goes through below, we need to filter this through an EPA-style/FIFRA risk assessment and what additional data, if any, we need as well as how the data and information should be submitted for us to do our review.

This exercise is to prepare us for giving EUP guidance to Oxitec in the near future. We will be relying on you to perform this evaluation for non-target risk. More info will follow next week. Thanks for your patience.

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From: Borges, Shannon
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:27 PM
To: Hartman, Mark <Hartman.Mark@epa.gov>; Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Milewski, Elizabeth <Milewski.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Tapken, Wiebke <Tapken.Wiebke@epa.gov>; Wozniak, Chris <wozniak.chris@epa.gov>; Kough, John <Kough.John@epa.gov>; Eiden, Catherine <Eiden.Catherine@epa.gov>
Cc: McNally, Robert <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>; Leahy, John <Leahy.John@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Eco Assessment for Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

All – I'm happy to address the questions below. However, I'm variously left in and out of the loop on this, and I have no context. Can someone fill me in on what's going on? Who's doing what on this?

Thanks.
Shannon

From: Hartman, Mark
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2017 2:39 PM
To: Mendelsohn, Mike <Mendelsohn.Mike@epa.gov>; Milewski, Elizabeth <Milewski.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Tapken, Wiebke <Tapken.Wiebke@epa.gov>; Borges, Shannon <Borges.Shannon@epa.gov>; Wozniak, Chris <wozniak.chris@epa.gov>; Kough, John <Kough.John@epa.gov>; Eiden, Catherine <Eiden.Catherine@epa.gov>
Cc: McNally, Robert <Mcnally.Robert@epa.gov>; Leahy, John <Leahy.John@epa.gov>
Subject: Eco Assessment for Genetically Modified Mosquitoes

I perused parts of the EA and there appear to be two studies that were conducted with Oxitec mosquitoes on non-target organisms. One was a predatory mosquito that was fed larvae of "modified" and control aegypti and no effects were observed. The second was a guppy feeding study using apparently eggs, larvae and adults which also did not identify a LOEC. Here is the link to the document. http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/GeneticEngineering/GeneticallyEngineeredAnimals/UCM514698.pdf. Summaries of the studies are on pages 87-88.

My basic question are along these lines:

1. If we apply the biochemical data requirements to this case I believe we would ask for avian oral, avian dietary, freshwater fish acute, freshwater invert acute, non-target insect, seedling emergence and veg vigor. No fate unless you move to Tier 2.
    a. I think the plant studies are nor relevant.
    b. Avian seems relevant if birds feed on mosquitoes which they do. How would we devise a feeding study? Would a feeding study using adult mosquitoes be sufficient to cover the acute oral? If not, how would we go about dosing the birds?
    c. Does the guppy study suffice to fulfill the freshwater fish requirement? It is unlikely that it followed our guidelines so are the deviations important/impact the conclusions of the study?
    d. Can aquatic inverts be exposed? If so, how would be suggest dosing for such a study? If not, what is the rationale for making that conclusion?
    e. Does the predatory mosquito study suffice to fulfill the non-target insect requirement? Would this cover dragonflies and other insects that feed on aegypti? Are there insects that feed on adults and, if so, could the study which used larvae suffice to cover those exposures or would we want a different study? We typically ask for three non-target insect studies for introduction of naturally occurring microbial. Understanding that exposures are different, is it sensible to only ask for one for a GE organism?
    f. Is it reasonable to assume that a bee study is not needed based on lack of exposure?
    g. Since we know that amphibians feed on mosquitoes would we want a tox study on frogs or would we argue that the exposure would be covered by one of the other studies?
2. Are we comfortable not requiring fate data from the outset especially considering the scrutiny around introducing a novel construct into the environment? Has Oxitec done any work that might be useful to draw conclusions on fate and transport?
3. Would we need estuarine ecotox data given the areas where the mosquitoes would be released?
4. Does the fact that we don't have any mammalian tox data lead to the need for some to cover potential exposure to non-targets? Are we comfortable, if we are able to make the argument of no exposure to humans, registering this with no mammalian tox data? Many times, even when exposure is precluded for some reason, we have a 6-pack. I know this is a human health issue but I snuck it in anyway.
5. My quick read of the EA led me to believe that the eco assessment was largely based on "impacts on populations" as opposed to an EPA-style risk assessment. Are these arguments relevant to our assessment especially in light of the fact that the EA was only covering a very small area of treatment.
6. Are there any changes we would make to any ecotox study we might require given what we know about the construct outputs or are the standard set of parameters sufficient?

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